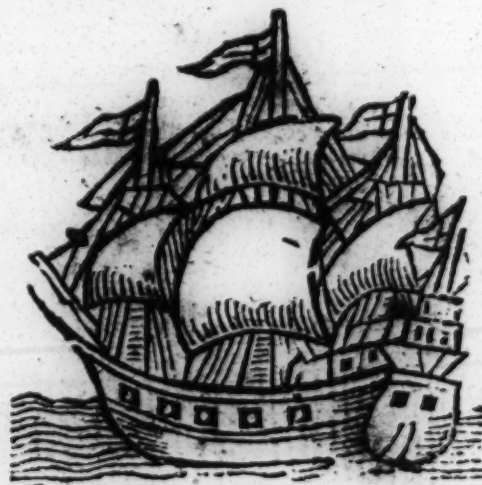


THE
Kid-napper
TRAP AND:

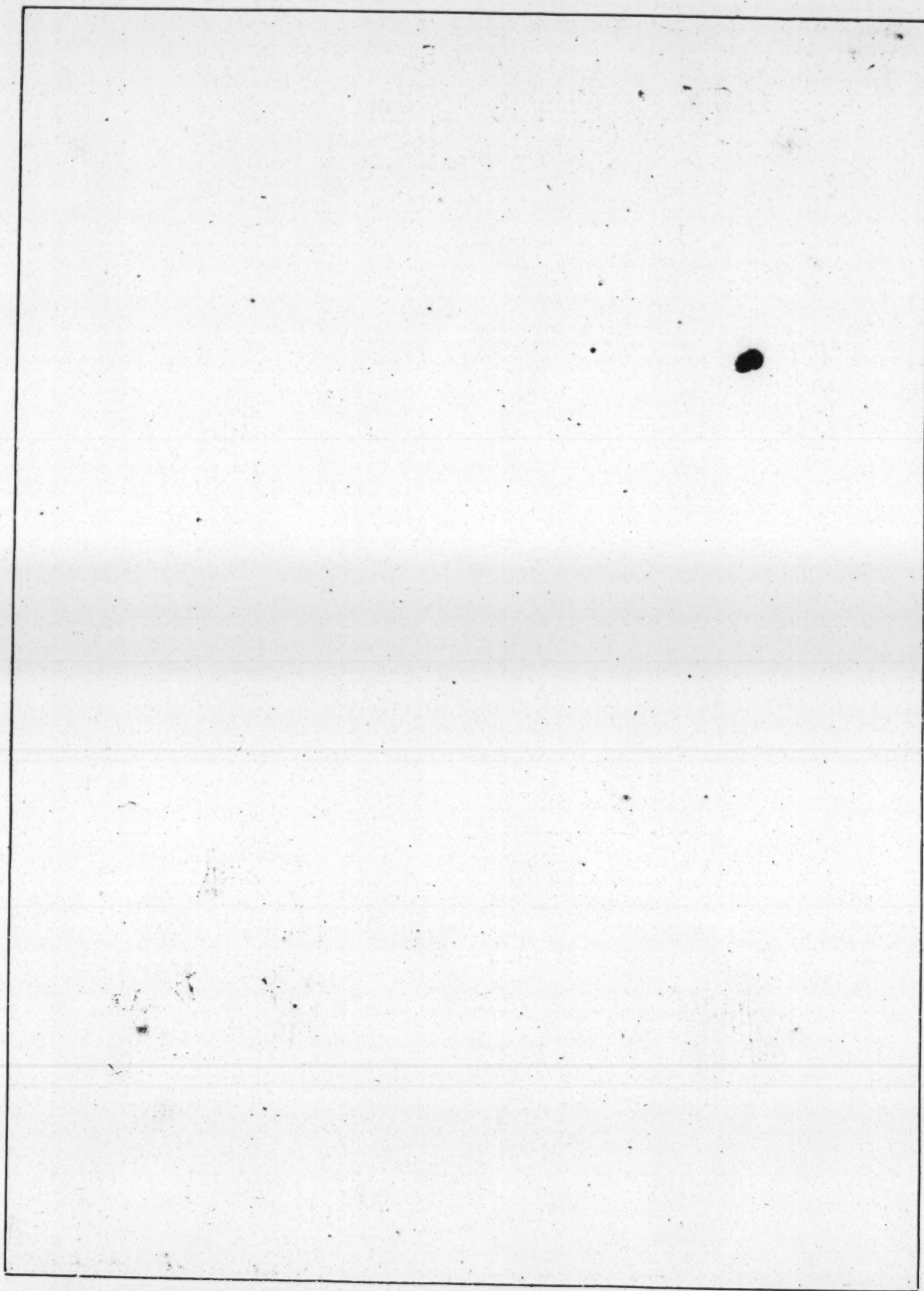
OR, THE
Treacherous Husband
Caught in his own TRAP.

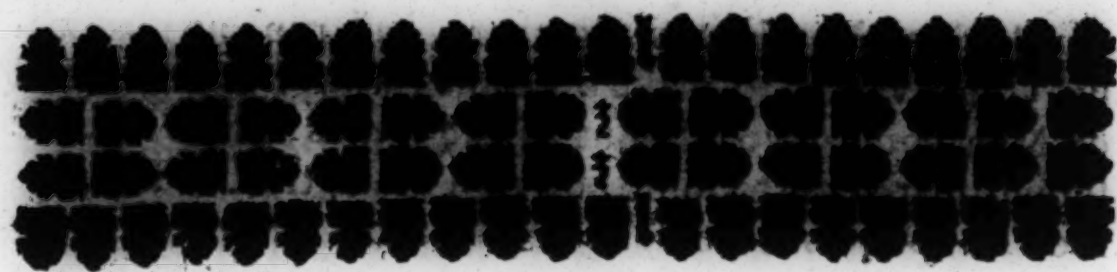
Being a pleasant and true Relation of a
Man in this Town that would have Sold his
Wife to *Virginia*, how he Bargain'd with the Master of a Ship
for Forty five shillings, telling him she was a Slut that followed
him, and that he could not be rid of her; But afterwards the
Master discovering that she was his Wife, released her, and
clapping him into the Hold, carri'd him away in her stead.



with Allowance.

London, Printed for P. B. 1675.





THE
KID-NAPPER
TRAP AND.

OR, THE
Treacherous Husband Caught in
his own *TRAP*, &c.



Supposing I tell you a Story generally known, I shall for bear to particularize in the Names of the Persons concern'd, or the Place where they Lived; but only I say in general, There lived a Person in this Town, (between *Chearing-cross* and the *Royal-Exchange*) who though he was but of an ordinary Profession, yet was called *Master*, all over the Parish where he lived; and had so much of a Gentleman in him as to keep a *She-Friend*, who in times of pleasure, or necessity, supplied the Room of his Wife: This *Modish-Mecanick* groaning under the Burthen of *wed-lock*, like a *Porter* under a Chest of Sugar, was resolved to be rid of it at any Rate. Many a Conference had *OLD NICK* and He about it,

and laying their Heads together, had run over as many Contrivances to make a Woman away, as the Devil or Man could invent : But at last it was agreed that she should march off to some Forraign Plantation. This was look'd upon as a notable contrivance. And so taking his leave of him for the present ; away he goes to the *Royal Exchange* in order to put the Design in Execution.

Being come there he falls to examining the Pillars, and found a cruel Company of hard Names, that he could not tell what to make off : But at last meeting very happily with a Ship bound for *Virginy* and just ready to depart ; he agreed upon that as the most suitable to his design, both as to the time and place. Joyfull with this lucky opportunity, home he returns to his Wife. Very sweet he was upon her, and like an Old cunning Ratcatcher he mixt Sugar with his Poison that it might take the better. She wonderfully pleased with his unusual kindness, provided something extraordinary for his Dinner ; and such joy there was as they had never known since their Wedding-day.

The Merriment being a little over, and the Afternoon fair, he pretended business at the place where the Vessel lay, and desired his Wife to bear him Company. I know the Reader is presently concluding that she was ready to go with him, but he's mistaken ; for having three small Bantlings at home, that could never a one of e'm shift for it self, the good Woman was very unwilling to leave e'm ; but however overcome by the treacherous kindness of the good man, she at last got a Neighbourly Woman to give the little one the Tet, and spread Bread and Butter for the rest, and away they trudg'd together as lovingly as any Couple in the Parish.

Hitherto all things seem'd to favour the Project, for being come to the Key, the first man he met with
chanc'd

chanc'd to be the Master of the said Vessel to which the Bill had directed him. Hereupon he took an opportunity to discourse him in the Thing; and in short, Covenanted for five Shillings in hand, and Forty Shillings more to be paid when the Ship had past the Block-house at *Graves End*.

Nothing was more to be done now but the delivery of the Goods, of which both the Master and the Husband were equally impatient. And in this they found very little difficulty, for the former inviting the latter on Board, he could do no less than desire the Company of his Wife; nor she, than comply with his kind request, having no mistrust of his intention. Being come on Board, they were entertained with such things as the Ship (I had almost said House) afforded; and after some considerable stay, Her Husband absenting himself longer than ordinary, She desired the Master he might be called for, that she had three small Children at home that wanted her dearly.

The Master somewhat startled hereat, demanded of her if she were Marry'd; for as yet he had not discovered that they were Man and Wife: She reply'd yes, and that the Person who came with her was her Husband. He presently smoaking the Design, told her the long and short of the business, in the manner that I have related it; which so surprized the Woman, that upon a sudden she lost that little sense she had, and fell into a Swound. Her Husband returning in this interval inquired into the cause; which he no sooner understood, but tis said he had like to have born her Company; for he was a pitiful low-hearted Raskal (as I have already intimated to you) that would have been more wicked if he had been more Couragious. Gape he did; and was going to say something in excuse of himself, but his Wife coming to her self, told him he Ly'd at a venture, Clapping her Hands and Scolding at such a rate,

rate, that she made the Cabin Ring agen. Sirrah, says she, is this your kindness? I thought what it came to; (though in this I dare Swear she Ly'd.) Did not I Marry you, and give you Five Pound to buy your Wedding Cloaths, when you had not a Tatter to your Arse? — (for in her hast she did not stand upon fine words) and yet for all this have not you used me like a Dog, and kept a Whore under my Nose? and and now at last to Betray me and Sell me? — More she would have said to this purpose; and to say Truth, if ever a Woman may be justified in her Scolding she had occasion enough, but the Master being an honest Fellow, and not caring for too much noise on one hand, nor too much Villany on the other, bid her be quiet, and all should be well enough: So taking the Husband to task; Sirrah, says he, did not you tell me that this was an Impudent Baggage that dogg'd you up and down to Marry her? that she resolved to Father a Child upon you that another had begot? which for ought I know may be true enough too. But when I ask'd you whether she were your Wife or no; did you not very impudently forswear it? Yes, an' please your Worship, says the poor sneaking Cur, I did; and if it had been false, he durst not have deny'd it for his Ears: But on the Master proceeds in his hard Language, Swearing by all the Flesh upon his Back (which considering the Corpulency of the Man was a pretty swinging Oath) that he shou'd never set foot ashore till he came to *Virginy*. And for your part Mistress (says he) you may e'ne go quietly ashore, and say tis the best days work that ever you did since your Mother Bound your Head. And so a body would have thought, if the silly wretch cou'd but a told when she was well; but she for all, like a fond fool fell a Snivelling and wringing of her hands, desiring the Master that he would not carry away her dear Husband; for let him do what he would yet still he was her

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her Husband , and in that clamorous impertinance, I'll warrant you she repeated the word Husband above a hundred times : whereat the Master (being a little hasty) reply'd , a Pox take ye , then ye may go both together.

The Fellow betwixt joy and haſt had like to have leapt over Board , Concluding he was diſcharg'd ; but the Woman taking it in the right Senſe, calling to mind both the unkindneſs of her Husband, and the ſad condition her little ones would be left in ; was contented to intreat for her ſelf , and to ſubmit to the Maſters pleaſure as to the other , but for all ſhe could not forbear offering all the Money ſhe had for his Releaſement, for which ſhe was heartily Laugh'd at and ſent away. I hope I need not take much pains to perſwade you that the Fellow beg'd very heartily to come aſhore : But I do aſſure you if the Maſter keep his word (as I think he will) he is not like to ſet Foot on Land till he come to *Chuck a Tuck* in *James River* in *Virginy* : Whether he is very fairly bound ; and for the Maſters ſake (my particular Friend) I wiſh him a good Voyage.

F I N I S.

